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SALE OF ARMS BY POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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The International Trade Office (Biuro Handlu Miedzynarodowego) is located in Warsaw at ulica Nowy Swiat No 14. In this establishment, three modest rooms are set aside for Documentation Office (Referat Dokumentacji), directed by Stefan Szwaro, who lives in Milanowek at ulica Podgorna No 18.

The above office name is simply a cover name for the export of Polish war materiel. The Polish Army is now being systematically rearmed with new, uniform Soviet-type arms planned for all Satellite armies. The old arms, together with Polish-produced arms returned by the USSR and Hungary and old Soviet, German, and even British surplus arms, have been stockpiled. Two "specialists" named Jan Cypek and Albert Cung have handily disposed of some Rumanian arms also.

In the past, part of the old stocks of arms were sold by Maksymowicz (fnu), the commercial adviser of the Polish Embassy in Paris, with the help of Komorowski (fnu), Mniszek (fnu), and Sywerlicki (fnu), to representatives of Vietminh and Jewish terrorist organizations. Some was also disposed of by the Polish trade representative in Karachi, Benedykt Polak, to Malayan and Burmese rebels.

In the initial stage of rearming, the agents sold only limited quantities. In the spring of 1952, a "pool" was suggested by Soviet advisers which was joined by Czechoslovakia. The Prague counterpart of the Polish Documentation Office was headed by Dr Karel Seidl who lived at Panska No 9, Praga II. The Czechs contribute old German and Soviet arms to the "pool" but none of their own make.

In November 1952, at Prague, a conference of the chief sales agents was held. The Warsaw representatives were Burakiewicz (fnu), Stanislaw Czaban, Tomczak (fnu), and Szwaro (fnu). The Prague representatives were Engineer Fuksa (fnu), Vojta Erbert, Dr Vladimir Tyller, Milan Krten, and Dr Karel Seidl. A decision was made to sell arms to the Near East and Africa rather than to Latin America.

In the summer of 1953, a foreign delegation of sorts was formed and established in the office of the Czechoslovak trade attache in Cairo, 12 bis sh. Ismail Pasha. This delegation handled most of the transactions with the Near East and Northern Africa; most of the work was done by Tadeusz Bajer, popularly known as "Monsieur Thadee," and his Czech colleague, Alois Laufberger. These two, together with Jaroslav Jachim, the Czechoslovak trade attache in Egypt, have unusually wide connections in Africa and the Near and Middle East.

The latest offers by the Documentation Office now being promoted by the Cairo intermediaries are 26,000 Mauser rifles and carbines, 1,650 Browning light machine guns, 100 Browning heavy machine guns, 100 antitank guns, and 94 antiaircraft machine guns.

All of the above are prewar Polish-produced items.

Also being offered are 35,000 Tokarev 38 rifles, 6,200 MPI-41 light machine guns, and 6,000 DP light machine guns.

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The above-listed arms are to be sold with an adequate supply of ammunition. In addition, the offers mention 112,000 rounds of 81-mm ammunition for the Stokes mortar.

Only a few of the dealings in this delicate materiel are completed in Cairo. Most are accomplished in Alexandria or Port Said.

The Warsaw and Prague offices were established to handle operations with discretion and primarily on a basis of "aid in the struggle against colonialism." Besides these offices, both Warsaw and Prague operate official institutions similar to the prewar Warsaw "SEPEWE" [not further identified] which, however, handle operations primarily within the Eastern bloc.

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